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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,411	11/24/2003	Boris Kesil		3358

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MultiMetrixx LLC
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EXAMINER

CHIN, PAUL T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3652

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/719,411

Applicant(s)

KESIL ET AL.

Examiner

PAUL T. CHIN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/24/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on November 23, 2004, was filed and the submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner. However, the patent application 09/944,605 is crossed out because applicant has already presented in the first paragraph under specification that the application is a continuation in part of the parent application.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 6 and 13 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Both of claims 5 and 6 recite the same limitation and also claims 12 and 13 recite the same limitation. Note that claim 12 depends on claim 8 whereas claim 13 depends on claim 9. However, claims 8 and 9 recite the same limitation, "a helical spring".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The recited phrases "a first side gripping finger comprising a lever of the second order pivotally installed" (claim 1, lines 8-9) and "a second side gripping finger comprising a

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lever of the second order pivotally installed" (claim 1, lines 12-13), "a second side gripping post" (line 12) and "a third side gripping post" (line 14) are vague and indefinite. It is unclear the recited languages of "a first side gripping finger" and "a second side gripping finger" and "a third side" because applicant fails to clarify "a first side", "a second side" or "a third side" of the device. Moreover, it is not clearly understood the phrase "the second order pivotally installed". Further, the exact meaning of the phrase "gripping force control means common for said at least one longitudinal gripping finger" (claim 1, last line of page 22) is not clearly understood particularly, the usage of "common".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1,3,7,8,17-24, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the prior art, figure 1, provided by the applicant.

Figure 1, provided by the applicant, shows A precision soft touch gripping mechanism for flat objects having a peripheral edge, said mechanism comprising:

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a flat gripper body having an upper surface, a lower surface and attachable to an external manipulation means, at least one longitudinal gripping finger in the form of an elongated member having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end supporting at least one distal gripping post; a first side gripping finger comprising a lever of the second order pivotally installed on said gripper body and having a first arm and a second arm, said first arm supporting at least one second side gripping post, and said second arm having a first guide slot (26a); a second side gripping finger comprising a lever of the second order pivotally installed on said gripper body and having a third arm and a forth arm, said third arm supporting at least one third side gripping post, and said second arm having a second guide slot (28a); a pin (32) that is rigidly attached to said proximal end of said at least one longitudinal gripping finger and is guided in said first guide slot and in said second guide slot simultaneously, a moveable frame that rigidly support said pin and is moveable in the direction of said at least one longitudinal gripping finger, said frame having a first end face nearest to said pin and a second end face opposite to said first end face; a linear drive means (42) having an output shaft that supports pushing member; a flexible member (24a) between said pushing member and said second end face of said frame; and gripping force control means common for said at least one longitudinal gripping finger, said first side gripping finger, and said second side gripping finger for controlling a final soft-touch gripping force applied from said at least one distal gripping post, said second side gripping post, and said third side gripping force to said periphery edges of said flat objects via said flexible member.

Re claims 17,19,21, and 23, figure 1 shows a stopper plate (30).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 4-6,9, and 10, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art, figure 1, provided by the applicant, in view of Bacchi et al. (6,256,555) (see IDS).

Figure 1, provided by the applicant, as presented in section 6 above, does not show a sensor means on each gripping post. However, Bacchi et al. (6,256,555) teaches a sensor means (Figs. 1-7) to align the wafer accurately. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to those skilled in the art to provide a sensor means on each gripping post of the figure 1 admitted by applicant as taught by Bacchi et al. (6,256,555) to accurately align the wafer.

Double Patenting

9. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with

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this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

10. Claims 1,3-10, and 17-24 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of copending Application No. 09/944,605. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both the application and the copending Application recite a first finger having a slot, and second fingers having a slot, a flat gripper plate, a pin attached to the slots, a linear drive and gripping control device.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 2,11-16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

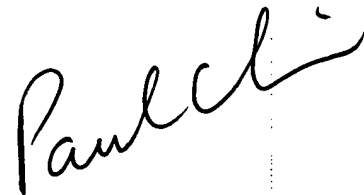
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL T. CHIN whose telephone number is (571) 272-6922. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-THURS (7:30 -6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, EILEEN LILLIS can be reached on (571) 272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PAUL T. CHIN
Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Chin", is written over the printed name and title of the examiner.